

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, PORG

SUBJECT: 12TH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR NEAR EAST -  
AMMAN, JORDAN, AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 9, 1974

1. RECENT FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN MAURITIUS AND PANAMA HAVE SEEN LAST-MINUTE INTRODUCTION OF ITEMS CALLING FOR DISCUSSION OF "PROGRAM OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER." MOST CERTAINLY SIMILAR ACTION WILL TAKE PLACE NEAR EAST CONFERENCE WHERE WE WILL HAVE OBSERVER DELEGATION. IN PREVIOUS CASES, LATE INTRODUCTION RESULTED IN ONLY MINIMUM COMMENTS BUT NEAR EAST MEMBERS AND SECRETARIAT MAY BE BETTER PREPARED FOR DEBATING THIS ISSUE.

2. FAO DOCUMENTATION FOR PREVIOUS SESSIONS CONSISTED OF ONE-PAGE COVER SHEET TO WHICH WAS ATTACHED TWO RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF GA, I.E. DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. FAO DOCUMENT STATED THAT  
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NUMBER OF ITEMS IN PROGRAM OF ACTION, ADOPTED BY GA, FELL

WITHIN FAO'S FIELD OF COMPETENCE. IT ALSO STATED DG FELT REGIONAL CONFERENCES PROVIDED SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO ASCERTAIN MEMBER GOVERNMENT VIEWS ABOUT WAY FAO SHOULD ADJUST ITS PROGRAM OF WORK TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO PROGRAM OF ACTION.

3. BOTH CITED RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED WITHOUT VOTE IN SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF GA, ALTHOUGH U.S. AND NUMBER OF OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITH THEM, AS EXPRESSED IN OVER 200 RESERVATIONS. IN RECENT SUMMER SESSION OF ECOSOC UNITED STATES VOTED AGAINST OMNIBUS RESOLUTION WHICH INCLUDED SECTION DEALING WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM OF ACTION. BASICALLY, OUR SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS HAVE TRIED TO AVOID ANY BLANKET ENDORSEMENT OR BLANKET CALL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM OF ACTION, BUT TO SUPPORT SPECIFIC, SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER THEM ON THEIR OWN MERITS RATHER THAN AS PART OF OVER-ALL PROGRAM OF ACTION.

4. SHOULD DEBATE DEVELOP ON THIS ITEM IN NEAR EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR UNITED STATES, AS OBSERVER, TO PLAY OTHER THAN PASSIVE ROLE. U.S. OBSERVER SHOULD, HOWEVER, SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN (PREFERABLY IN WRAP UP STATEMENT ON OTHER ASPECTS OF WORK OF CONFERENCE) THAT WHILE US HAS BEEN

CONSTANT AND LEADING SUPPORTER OF WORK OF FAO, WE WERE ONE OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PROGRAM OF ACTION AS IT DEVELOPED IN 6TH SPECIAL SESSION OF GA. SINCE WE NEVERTHELESS INTEND TO WEIGH INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS IN PROGRAM OF ACTION ON THEIR RESPECTIVE MERITS, WE BELIEVE DG HAS ACTED WISELY IN APPOINTING WORKING PARTY TO ANALYZE PROGRAM OF ACTION WITH REFERENCE TO ACTIVITIES OF FAO. INGERSOLL

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